



Alabama Medicaid Preferred Drug and Prior Authorization Program

Prior Authorization (PA) Criteria Instructions

This document contains detailed instructions on completing the following forms:

1. Medicaid Prior Authorization Form, Form 369
2. Synagis Prior Authorization Form, Form 351

Effective October 1, 2003, as a result of legislation passed in June 2003, the Alabama Medicaid Agency implemented a mandatory Preferred Drug List (PDL). Brand name preferred drugs, generics and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs for classes reviewed by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee and covered by Medicaid are available without prior approval. If, however, a non-preferred drug is prescribed, the practitioner will need to get prior authorization (PA). If approval is given to dispense the non-preferred drug, an authorization number will be given.

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PA Form: General Information

PDL Drug Classes to Require PA

The following classes of drugs are on the mandatory preferred drug list:

- Alzheimer's Agents
- Antidepressant Agents
- Antidiabetic Agents
- Antiemetic Agents
- Antihypertensive Agents
- Anti-infective Agents
- Antilipemic Agents
- Anxiolytics/Sedatives/Hypnotics
- Cardiac Agents
- Cerebral Stimulants/Agents used for ADD/ADHD
- EENT Antiallergic Agents
- EENT Vasoconstrictor Agents
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- Intranasal Corticosteroids
- Narcotic Analgesic Agents
- Platelet-Aggregation Inhibitor Agents
- Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)
- Respiratory Agents
- Selective Serotonin Agonists
- Skeletal Muscle Relaxants
- Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents

Other drug classes may be added as they are reviewed and approved.

Non-PDL Drugs and/or Drug Classes to Require PA

The following drugs or classes of drugs are not included on the mandatory preferred drug list and do require PA:

- Antihistamines (Second Generation)
- Biological Injectables
 - Amevive[®] (Alefacept)
 - Enbrel[®] (Etanercept)
 - Humira[®] (Adalimumab)
 - Kineret[®] (Anakinra)
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- Sustained Release Oral Opioid Agonists
- Synagis
- Xenical
- Xolair

Definitions

Approval Timeframes

- The approval timeframe is the maximum period of time for which a PA can be approved. This varies from class to class. Refills within the approved timeframe will not require a new PA request.

Appropriate Diagnosis

- Some classes require diagnosis(es) that justifies the drug requested. Diagnosis(es) **or** ICD-9 code(s) may be used. Use of ICD-9 codes provides specificity and legibility and will usually expedite review.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification is documentation to support the physician's choice for the requested course of treatment and may include documentation from the patient record or peer-reviewed literature. Documentation from the patient record (history and physical, tests, past or current medication/treatments, patient's response to treatment, etc) should illustrate and support the physician's request for the drug specified. For example, if a recommended therapy trial is contraindicated by the patient's condition or the patient has a history of allergy to a first-line drug, and the physician wants to prescribe a non-preferred drug, documentation from the patient record would support that decision. Medical justification may be provided under the Clinical Information Section on the request form or included as an attachment.

Prior Treatment Trials

- Prior authorization requires that a designated number of prescribed generic, OTC or brand name drugs have been utilized unsuccessfully relative to efficacy and/or safety within a specified timeframe prior to requesting the PA. For prior therapy requirements for a specific class, refer to the class specific section of the criteria booklet.
- One prior therapy is acceptable in those instances when a class has only one preferred agent, either brand, generic or OTC, for a specific indication.
- The PA request must indicate that the prescribed generic, OTC or brand drugs have been utilized for a period of at least thirty (30) days each (14 days for EENT Antiallergic Agents or Selective Serotonin Agonists; 3 days for Antiemetics, EENT Vasoconstrictor Agents or Anti-infectives), **unless** there is an adverse/allergic response or contraindication.

- If the prescribing practitioner feels there is a medical reason for which the patient should not be on a preferred generic, OTC or brand medication, medical justification may be submitted in lieu of previous drug therapy.
- The classes below require prior treatment trials. Those classes denoted with an asterisk (*) require that the failed treatment trials be **prescribed and preferred** agents. Those without an asterisk require that the failed therapies be **prescribed**.

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Alzheimer's Agents* | • EENT Vasoconstrictor Agents* |
| • Antidepressant Agents* | • Estrogen Agents* |
| • Antidiabetic Agents* | • H2 Antagonist Agents |
| • Antiemetic Agents | • Intranasal Corticosteroids Agents* |
| • Antihistamines (Second Generation) | • Narcotic Analgesic Agents* |
| • Antihypertensive Agents* | • NSAID Agents |
| • Anti-infective Agents* | • Platelet-Aggregation Inhibitor Agents* |
| • Antilipemic Agents* | • Proton Pump Inhibitor Agents* |
| • Anxiolytics/Sedatives/Hypnotics* | • Respiratory Agents* |
| • Cardiac Agents* | • Selective Serotonin Agonists* |
| • Cerebral Stimulants/ Agents used for ADD/ADHD* | • Skeletal Muscle Relaxants* |
| • EENT Antiallergic Agents* | • Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents* |

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy applies in some classes for patients who have been stable on the same drug and the same strength. Stable therapy applies for all classes listed in the chart on the following page. The application of stable therapy for adults is limited to the specific classes listed under the heading “Stable therapy for all ages”. Consecutive therapy allows approval for patients who have been determined to be stable on the medication for a specified timeframe and who continue to require therapy. For stable therapy timeframe for a specific class, refer to the class specific section of the criteria booklet.
- Documentation of stable therapy is not required for renewal requests if claims history supports stable therapy. For all other requests, documentation must be provided in order to meet stable therapy requirements. Examples of acceptable documentation include pharmacy profile printouts, prescription copies, copies of the medical record medication list or progress notes documenting strength and quantity consistent with consecutive therapy timeframes. The use of medication samples or manufacturer vouchers does not count towards stable therapy requirements.

The chart on the following page outlines the stable therapy guidelines.

Stable Therapy Guideline Chart

Drug Class	Stable Therapy for All Ages	18 years old and younger
Alzheimer's Agents	√	
Antidepressants	√	
Antidiabetic Agents	√	
Antiemetic Agents		√
Antihistamines (Second Generation)		√
Antihypertensive Agents	√	
Antilipemic Agents		√
Anti-infective Agents	√	
Anxiolytics/Sedatives/Hypnotics		√
Cardiac Agents	√	
Cerebral Stimulants/Agents used for ADD/ADHD	√	
EENT Antiallergic Agents		√
EENT Vasoconstrictor Agents		√
Estrogens		√
Intranasal Corticosteroids		√
Narcotic Analgesics		√
NSAIDs		√
Platelet-Aggregation Inhibitors		√
Prevacid NapraPac™		√
Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) Agents		√
Respiratory Agents		√
Selective Serotonin Agonists		√
Skeletal Muscle Relaxants*	√	
Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents		√
Sustained-release Opioid Agonist (SROA) Agents		√

**For Skeletal Muscle Relaxants, stable therapy for adults only applies if patient has a chronic condition associated with spasticity.*

Verbal Requests

PA requests for drugs that meet previous drug usage requirements will be accepted verbally. Verbal PA requests may be initiated by pharmacists, physicians or their authorized representative. Any drug requiring additional information or medical justification must be submitted on the required PA form.

Drugs that may be requested verbally are:

- Alzheimer's Agents
- Antidepressants
- Antidiabetic Agents
- Antiemetic Agents
- Antihistamines (Second Generation)
- Anti-infective Agents
- Antilipemic Agents
- Anxiolytics/Sedatives/Hypnotics
- Cardiac Agents
- Cerebral Stimulants/Agents used for ADD/ADHD
- EENT Antiallergic Agents
- EENT Vasoconstrictor Agents
- Estrogens
- H2 Antagonists
- Intranasal Corticosteroids
- Narcotic Analgesics
- NSAIDs
- Platelet-Aggregation Inhibitors
- PPI Agents
- Respiratory Agents
- Selective Serotonin Agonists
- Skeletal Muscle Relaxants
- Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents

Paper Requests

Page One (1) of the Prior Authorization Request Form may be submitted alone unless the medication requested is listed on Page Two (2). Synagis and Growth Failure Agents have separate PA Forms.

Check the appropriate box at the top of the form to indicate whether one or both pages are being submitted. Acknowledgement of transmission of the second page will ensure that the reviewer has all completed material needed to review the request.

Drugs listed on Page 2 of PA form are:

Sustained Release Oral Opioid Agonists

Biological Injectables

Xenical

Erectile Dysfunction Drugs

Specialized Nutritionals

Xolair

A separate form will need to be completed for each drug/nutritional requested.

Once the form is completed, the paper request can be submitted via fax or mail.

Electronic Requests

Electronic claims are submitted from the pharmacy and electronic requests may be submitted online by the pharmacy or physician.

Electronic Prior Authorization Program (EPA) – Certain classes of drugs are included in the EPA Program. Once the pharmacy sends an electronic claim for a drug in the EPA program, the system reviews medical and pharmacy claims history for the patient. If the criteria are met, the claim is automatically assigned an authorization number and is approved. If the PA criteria are not met, a message is returned to the pharmacy instructing the submitter to submit a manual (paper or online) request.

- An EPA rejected claim does not constitute a PA denial, only a notice to the pharmacy that a manual PA request is needed.

Drug classes included in the EPA program:

- Alzheimer's Agents
- Antidepressants
- Antidiabetic Agents
- Antiemetic Agents
- Antihistamines
(Second Generation)
- Antihypertensives
- Antilipemics
- Anxiolytics/Sedatives/
Hypnotics
- Cardiac Agents
- Cerebral
Stimulants/Agents
used for ADD/ADHD
- EENT Antiallergic
Agents
- EENT Vasoconstrictors
- Estrogens
- Intranasal
Corticosteroids
- NSAIDs
- Platelet-Aggregation
Inhibitors
- Respiratory Agents
- Selective Serotonin
Agonists
- Skeletal Muscle
Relaxants
- Skin and Mucous
Membrane Agents
- SROAs

Online Form Submission

From the Medicaid website (www.alabama.medicaid.gov), a link can be found for a PA Request Form that can be completed and submitted electronically online. The form can also be found on HID's (Health Information Designs) website at www.hidmedicaid.com/terms.html.

Online requests, once submitted, are processed like paper requests and are subject to paper request requirements.

Section Two
PA Form: Patient Information

Below are fields to be completed on the PA Form.

Form States	Your Response
Patient name	Record the patient's name as it appears on their Medicaid card.
Patient Medicaid #	Record patient's Medicaid number.
Patient DOB	Record patient's date of birth.
Patient phone # with area code	Record the patient's phone number including area code.
Nursing home resident	If patient is nursing home resident, indicate yes.

Section Three

PA Form: Prescriber Information

Below are fields to be completed on the PA Form.

Form States	Your Response
Prescribing practitioner	Record the prescribing practitioner's name.
NPI/License number	Record the prescribing practitioner's NPI or license number.
Phone number with area code	Record the prescribing practitioner's phone number with area code.
Fax number with area code	Record prescribing practitioner's fax number with area code.
Address (optional)	Prescribing practitioner's mailing address is optional
Prescribing practitioner signature/date	The prescriber should sign and date in this section on the prescribing practitioner signature line.*

**By signing in the designated space, the practitioner verifies that the request complies with Medicaid's guidelines and that he/she will be supervising the patient during treatment with the requested product. The practitioner further certifies that documentation is available in the patient record to justify the requested treatment.*

Section Four PA Form: Clinical Information

(This information is required for all requests.)

Below are fields to be completed on the PA Form.

Form States	Your Response
Drug requested	Record the name of the drug being requested.
Strength	Record the strength of the drug.
J Code	Enter the J code if the drug requested is to be administered using office medications.
Quantity	Enter the quantity of the drug being requested.
Days supply	Enter the days supply for the quantity requested.
PA refills	Circle the number of refills requested.
Diagnosis or ICD-9 Code	Record diagnosis(es) that justifies the requested drug. Diagnosis(es) <u>or</u> ICD-9 code(s) may be used. Use of ICD-9 codes provides specificity and legibility and will usually expedite review.
Initial/Renewal Request	Indicate if this is an initial request or a renewal request.
Type of therapy requested	For H2 Antagonists and PPIs, specify if therapy is acute or maintenance.
Medical justification	Explain the reason this drug is required, and attach any additional medical justification necessary.*

**Medical justification is documentation to support the physician's choice of the requested course of treatment and may include documentation from the patient record or peer-reviewed literature. Documentation from the patient record (history and physical, tests, past or current medication/treatments, patient's response to treatment, etc) illustrates and supports the physician's request for the drug specified. For example, if a recommended therapy trial is contraindicated by the patient's condition or a history of allergy to a first-line drug, and the physician wants to order a non-preferred drug, documentation from the patient record would support that decision.*

Section Five
PA Form: Drug Specific Information

Below are fields to be completed on the PA Form.

Form States	Your Response
Drug class requested	Check the appropriate box for the drug class for the PA being requested.
Previous drug usage	Record the name of the discontinued medication. If there is no previous drug usage, additional medical justification must be provided.
Reason for d/c	Record the reason the medication was discontinued.
Therapy start date	Record the start date of the discontinued medication.
Therapy end date	Record the end date of the discontinued medication.

PA Criteria for Drugs/Drug Classes

The following section outlines class specific information regarding PA criteria.

PDL Drug Classes to Require PA:

- Alzheimer's Agents
- Antidepressant Agents
- Antidiabetic Agents
- Antiemetic Agents
- Antihypertensive Agents
- Anti-infective Agents
- Antilipemic Agents
- Anxiolytics/Sedatives/Hypnotics
- Cardiac Agents
- Cerebral Stimulants/Agents used for ADD/ADHD
- EENT Antiallergic Agents
- EENT Vasoconstrictor Agents
- Estrogens
- Intranasal Corticosteroids
- Narcotic Analgesic Agents
- Platelet-Aggregation Inhibitor Agents
- Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)
- Respiratory Agents
- Selective Serotonin Agonists
- Skeletal Muscle Relaxants
- Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents

Alzheimer's Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least one other prescribed and preferred Alzheimer's agent in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy for this class is defined as a 90-day or greater timeframe. Approval may be given for those who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 90 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Alzheimer's agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Antidepressants

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred antidepressant agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand within the past 6 months, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given to those who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Antidepressants are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Antidiabetic Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred antidiabetic agents, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- If the request is for Symlin[®], the patient must also be on insulin therapy and have a hemoglobin A1c greater than 7% despite more than 90 days of insulin therapy.
- For Byetta[®], one prior therapy with either a biguanide, a thiazolidinedione, or a sulfonylurea is acceptable.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for those who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Antidiabetic agents, excluding Symlin[®], are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Antiemetic Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 3-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed antiemetics, to include promethazine or a preferred antiemetic agent, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Antiemetic agents are included in the electronic PA program.
- Through the Electronic PA program, allowances are made for patients with cancer and HIV/AIDs diagnoses (supported by medical claims history) for drugs with FDA-approved cancer and HIV/AIDs related indications.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Antihypertensives

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred antihypertensive agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- To meet these prior usage requirements, drugs within this specific classification must be judged against others in the same class (AHFS specific).
 - For example, to qualify for a non-preferred beta blocker, the patient must have met prior usage requirements of 30-day treatment trials with two other beta blockers, either generic, OTC or brand.
 - For combination therapies consisting of drugs from 2 subclasses, prior therapies must include at least 2 prescribed and preferred agents from one or both respective subclasses.
 - For Tekturna, prior therapies must include at least two prescribed and preferred angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and/or angiotensin II receptor antagonists.
 - For Inversine, prior therapies must include at least two prescribed and preferred agent from any of the following classes; thiazide diuretics, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor antagonists, beta-adrenergic blocking agents, and calcium-channel blocking agents.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for those who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Antihypertensive agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

Anti-infective Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed two treatment trials of no less than three-days each, with at least two prescribed and preferred anti-infectives, either generic, OTC or brand, for the above diagnosis within the past 30 days or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents for the diagnosis submitted.

Stable Therapy

- Patients on anti-infective therapy while institutionalized once discharged or transferred to another setting or patients having a 60 day consecutive stable therapy may continue on that therapy with supportive medical justification or documentation.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested. Approval may also be given, with medical justification, if the medication requested is indicated for first line therapy when there are no other indicated preferred agents available or if indicated by susceptibility testing or evidence of resistance to all preferred agents.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Antilipemic Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred lipid lowering agents, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- For ezetimibe, if prior usage requirements have not been met, approval may be obtained for adjunctive therapy to a current lipid lowering drug.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 6 months for initial request and up to 12 months for renewal requests.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Antilipemic agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Anxiolytics/Sedatives/Hypnotics

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand within the past 6 months, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 3 months for initial request and up to 6 months for renewal requests.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Anxiolytic, sedative and hypnotic agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Cardiac Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred cardiac agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- To meet these prior usage requirements, drugs within this specific classification must be judged against others in the same class (AHFS specific).
 - For example, to qualify for a non-preferred cardiotonic, the patient must have met prior usage requirements of 30-day treatment trials with two other preferred cardiotonic agents, either generic, OTC or brand.
 - For Ranexa® in lieu of prior usage requirements, the patient must have continued uncontrolled angina while on a combination regimen including amlodipine, a beta-adrenergic blocking agent and/or a maintenance nitrate (extended release isosorbide or transdermal nitroglycerin).

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for those who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Cardiac agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Cerebral Stimulants/Agents Used for ADD/ADHD

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.
- For agents with an FDA-approved indication of Idiopathic hypersomnia in children 18 and under, narcolepsy, or obstructive sleep apnea, the patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record of appropriate diagnostic testing.

Prior Therapy

- If the request is for a *short- or intermediate-acting* cerebral stimulant/agent used to treat ADD/ADHD, the patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred short- or intermediate-acting cerebral stimulants/agents used for ADD/ADHD, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months.
- If the request is for a *long-acting* cerebral stimulant/agent used for ADD/ADHD, the patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred long-acting cerebral stimulants/agents used for ADD/ADHD, either generic, OTC or brand within the past 6 months.
- In lieu of prior usage requirements, approval may be given if there is a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given to those who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Cerebral Stimulant/Agent Used for ADD/ADHD agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

EENT Antiallergic Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- For ophthalmic products, the patient must also have failed 14-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred ophthalmic agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 12 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- For nasal products, the patient must have also failed 14-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed antiallergic agents, to include oral antihistamines, intranasal corticosteroids or intranasal cromolyn, either generic, OTC or brand within the past 12 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred or acceptable agents.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- EENT antiallergic agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

EENT Vasoconstrictor Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 3-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- EENT vasoconstrictors are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Estrogens

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred estrogens in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Estrogens are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Intranasal Corticosteroids

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred intranasal corticosteroids in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Intranasal corticosteroid agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Narcotic Analgesics

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.
- For Subutex® and/or Suboxone®, the patient must have the diagnosis of opioid type dependence and the physician must have received a waiver and special DEA number through the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) to practice medication-assisted opioid addiction therapy.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least 2 prescribed and preferred narcotic analgesics in this class, either generic, OTC, or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- For narcotic analgesics, medical justification must include documentation of therapeutic pain management failure with NSAIDs, APAP, or ASA and a complete pain evaluation in the medical record. Type of pain (acute versus chronic) and pain intensity (mild, moderate or severe) must be indicated in the Drug/Clinical Information section under Medical Justification. Medical justification may also include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 3 months with initial and renewal requests unless one of the qualifying diagnoses is indicated, then approval may be given for up to 6 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Platelet-Aggregation Inhibitors

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.
- The date of the most recent event must be included in the Clinical Information section of the Prior Authorization Form.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least 2 prescribed and preferred platelet-aggregation inhibitors in this class, either generic, OTC, or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Acceptable medical justification consists of specific clinical diagnoses for 1st line treatment by certain branded products in lieu of prior usage, allergy, contraindication or intolerance to the use of ASA, cilostazol, ticlopidine and dipyridamole.
- Clinical literature and guidelines support the use of Plavix[®] or Aggrenox[®] for specific 1st line indications; these indications include acute coronary syndrome (unstable angina and non-ST myocardial infarction, non ST-elevation ACS), transient ischemic attack (TIA) occurring while on ASA, percutaneous coronary interventions (balloon angioplasty, laser angioplasty, intra-coronary stents, other catheter devices treating coronary atherosclerosis), and myocardial infarction or ischemic stroke occurring in patient with peripheral artery Disease (PAD/PVD).

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months from the date of the most recent event.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Platelet-aggregation inhibitors are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Proton Pump Inhibitors **(PPI)**

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record. Requests must indicate under the Clinical Information Section of the PA Request Form whether medication is for acute or maintenance therapy.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least 2 prescribed and preferred PPIs in this class, either generic, OTC, or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification for consideration for approval outside criteria is diagnosis driven and outlined as follows:

GERD

➤ **Mild to moderate GERD (Grade I, II, or III)**

Medical justification documentation must indicate failure of preferred agents in this class prescribed for at least 8 weeks with persistence of symptoms.

Testing is not required for acute therapy with moderate to severe symptoms, defined as ≥ 2 episodes/week of nocturnal heartburn, and ≥ 3 episodes/week of daytime heartburn or indigestion, with no resolution or worsening of symptoms.

Approval may be given for up to 4 weeks of **acute** therapy.

If moderate to severe symptoms persist and there is documentation in the medical record, an additional 8 weeks of treatment may be approved without testing. If symptoms persist, documentation of appropriate testing (barium contrast or double contrast radiography, or endoscopy) with results is required for approval of additional **maintenance** therapy.

➤ **Severe GERD (Grade IV or V)**

Diagnosis must be confirmed by testing (barium contrast or double contrast radiography, or endoscopy) within the past 12 months.

For **acute** therapy, the patient may be approved for up to 8 weeks of therapy. If severe GERD symptoms continue or do not resolve, approval for **maintenance** therapy may be given for an additional 12 weeks of treatment.

Positive H. pylori

If the patient has tested positive for H. pylori (breath test, blood test or tissue biopsy if endoscopic exam done) and met prior usage requirements, approval may be given for up to 2 weeks of combination therapy.

Requests for Prevpac® should meet Prevpac® criteria, not PPI criteria.

Gastric ulcer, duodenal ulcer, or esophagitis

The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis confirmed by testing (barium contrast or double contrast radiography, or endoscopy) within the past 12 months and meet prior usage requirements. If these requirements are met, up to 8 weeks of **acute** therapy may be approved.

If on completion of 8 weeks of acute treatment for esophagitis (erosive or non-erosive) symptoms persist, approval may be given for up to 6 months of maintenance treatment.

After 12 months, approval will require documentation of persistent symptoms and the results of retesting.

Hypersecretory conditions

If the patient is diagnosed with Barrett's Esophagitis, Zollinger-Ellison, or other hypersecretory disorders, which have been confirmed by testing (barium contrast or double contrast radiography, or endoscopy), then approval of up to 12 months of **acute** treatment may be issued, with continued **maintenance** therapy approved in 12 month increments.

Renewal requests do not require retesting but do need documentation of persistence of symptoms.

PrevPac®

The patient must have a diagnosis of duodenal ulcer, confirmed by testing within the past 12 months, and must also test positive for H. pylori, confirmed by testing within the past 30 days.

The patient must have failed two acute treatment trials of at least 14 days each with lack of healing on an acid suppressor and antibiotics, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented contraindication to all preferred agents in these classes.

PA Timeframe Approval

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months for maintenance. Otherwise, please see above.

Electronic Prior Authorization

- Not applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirements for approval may be accepted verbally.

Respiratory Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- For a diagnosis of allergic rhinitis, the patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed intranasal agents or oral agents (to include second generation antihistamines) to treat allergic rhinitis, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- For all other diagnoses, the patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred respiratory agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- Requests for Pulmicort Respules™ or Singulair will not require failed therapy for children under age five with a diagnosis of asthma.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Respiratory agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Selective Serotonin Agonists

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.
- The request must be for acute treatment, not prophylactic therapy.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must have failed 2-week treatment trials with at least two other prescribed and preferred selective serotonin agonists, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have been stable on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 6 months initially and up to 12 months for renewal requests.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Selective serotonin agonists are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Skeletal Muscle Relaxants

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must have also failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred skeletal muscle relaxants, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past six (6) months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given if the patient has been on consecutive 60 day or greater treatment if the skeletal muscle relaxant being requested is for a chronic condition associated with muscle spasticity.
- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 6 months initially and up to 12 months for renewal requests for chronic conditions with muscle spasticity.
- For acute conditions approval may be granted for up to a 10-day course of medication consistent with current maximum limits when criteria are met.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Skeletal muscle relaxant agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally

Skin and Mucous Membrane Agents

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trial

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred skin and mucous membrane agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months, or one failed treatment trial when appropriate based on PDL preferred agents, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- For scabicides and pediculicides, the patient must have failed 14-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed and preferred skin and mucous membrane agents in this class, either generic, OTC or brand within the past 6 months or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.
- To meet prior usage requirements, drugs within this specific classification must be judged against others in the same class (AHFS specific).
 - For example, to qualify for a non-preferred topical anti-inflammatory agent, the patient must have met prior usage requirements of 30-day treatment trials with two other topical anti-inflammatory agents, wither generic or brand.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have been stable on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months. For Elidel[®] and Protopic[®], approval should be limited to 6 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Skin and mucous membrane agents are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Non-PDL Drugs and/or Drug Classes to Require PA

- Antihistamines (Second Generation)
- Biological Injectables
 - Amevive[®] (Alefcept)
 - Enbrel[®] (Etanercept)
 - Humira[®] (Adalimumab)
 - Kineret[®] (Anakinra)
 - Orencia[®] (Abatacept)
 - Raptiva[®] (Efalizumab)
 - Remicade[®] (Infliximab)
- Growth Failure Agents
 - Growth Failure in Adults
 - Growth Failure in AIDS Wasting
 - Growth Failure in Children
- H2 Antagonists
- NSAIDs
- Phosphodiesterase Inhibitors
- Specialized Nutritionals
- Sustained Release Oral Opioid Agonists
- Synagis
- Xenical
- Xolair

Antihistamines (2nd Generation)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- The patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed antihistamines, either generic, OTC or brand within the past 6 months, or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all covered OTC or generic antihistamine agents.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Second generation antihistamines are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Biological Injectables

Check the applicable drug:

- Amevive[®] (Alefcept)
- Enbrel[®] (Etanercept)
- Humira[™] (Adalimumab)
- Kineret[®] (Anakinra)
- Orencia[®] (Abatacept)
- Raptiva[®] (Efalizumab)
- Remicade[®] (Infliximab)

A. Amevive[®] (Alefcept)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- For prior authorization the patient must have a diagnosis of:
 - chronic moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adults 18 years or older who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy that has been confirmed by a board certified dermatologist.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed a 6-month treatment trial with topical treatment(s), either generic, OTC, or brand, within the last year or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Amevive[®].

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Renewal requests can only be approved provided the CD4+ T lymphocyte counts are within normal range and a minimum of a 12-week interval has passed since the previous course of treatment.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

B. Enbrel® (Etanercept)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- For prior authorization the patient must have a diagnosis of:
 - rheumatoid arthritis, polyarticular juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, or chronic moderate to severe active ankylosing spondylitis confirmed by a board certified rheumatologist, or
 - psoriatic arthritis confirmed by a board certified dermatologist or rheumatologist, or
 - plaque psoriasis confirmed by a board certified dermatologist.

Prior Treatment Trials

- For plaque psoriasis, the patient must have failed a 6-month treatment trial with topical treatment(s), either generic, OTC, or brand, within the last year or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all agents in this class.
- For all other diagnoses, the patient must have failed a 30-day treatment trial with at least one conventional disease modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD), unless there is a documented adverse response or contraindication to DMARD use. DMARDs include the following: hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, methotrexate, leflunomide, d-penicillamine, azathioprine, oral gold, intra-muscular gold.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Enbrel®.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

C. Humira[®]™ (Adalimumab)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- For prior authorization the patient must have a diagnosis of:
 - moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis or active ankylosing spondylitis confirmed by a board certified rheumatologist, or
 - psoriatic arthritis confirmed by a board certified rheumatologist or dermatologist.
 - moderately to severely active Crohn's disease confirmed by a board certified gastroenterologist.

Prior Treatment Trials

- For rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, or psoriatic arthritis, the patient must also have failed a 30-day treatment trial with at least one conventional disease modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD), unless there is a documented adverse response or contraindication to DMARD use. DMARDs include the following: hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, methotrexate, leflunomide, d-penicillamine, azathioprine, oral gold, intra-muscular gold.
- For Crohn's Disease, the patient must have had an inadequate response to one or more conventional therapies, which include aminosalicylates, corticosteroids, azathioprine/6-mercaptopurine, metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, or cyclosporine.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Humira[®].

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

D. Kineret® (Anakinra)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- For prior authorization the patient must have a diagnosis of:
 - moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis in patients 18 and older confirmed by a board certified rheumatologist.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed a 30-day treatment trial with at least one conventional disease modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD), unless there is a documented adverse response or contraindication to DMARD use. DMARDs include the following: hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, methotrexate, leflunomide, d-penicillamine, azathioprine, oral gold, intra-muscular gold.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Kineret®.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

E. Orenzia® (Abatacept)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- For prior authorization the patient must have a diagnosis of:
 - moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis confirmed by a board certified rheumatologist.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed a 30-day treatment trial with at least one conventional disease modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD), unless there is a documented adverse response or contraindication to DMARD use. DMARDs include the following: hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, methotrexate, leflunomide, d-penicillamine, azathioprine, oral gold, intra-muscular gold.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Orenzia®.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

F. Raptiva® (Efalizumab)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- For prior authorization the patient must have a diagnosis of:
 - chronic moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adults 18 years or older who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy confirmed by a board certified dermatologist.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed a 6-month trial with topical treatment(s), either generic, OTC or brand, within the last year or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all agents in this class.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Raptiva®.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.
- Patients may be taught to self inject, under the guidance and supervision of a physician. Granting of further approvals is dependent on patient compliance.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

H. Remicade® (Infliximab)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- For prior authorization the patient must have a diagnosis of:
 - rheumatoid arthritis [diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis or other rheumatoid arthritis with visceral or systemic involvement, or polyarticular juvenile rheumatoid arthritis] or ankylosing spondylitis confirmed by a board certified rheumatologist, or
 - psoriatic arthritis confirmed by a board certified dermatologist or board certified rheumatologist, or
 - plaque psoriasis confirmed by a board certified dermatologist, or
 - Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis that has been confirmed by a board certified gastroenterologist.

Prior Treatment Trials

- For rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, or ankylosing spondylitis, the patient must have a failed 30-day treatment trial with at least one conventional disease modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD), at least one of which is methotrexate, unless there is a documented adverse response or contraindication to DMARD use. DMARDs include the following: hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, methotrexate, leflunomide, d-penicillamine, azathioprine, oral gold, intra-muscular gold.
 - The patient will need to continue on methotrexate in conjunction with Remicade therapy, unless there is a contraindication to its use. Any contraindications or intolerance to methotrexate use will need to be identified with appropriate supportive documentation included.
- For plaque psoriasis, the patient must have failed a 6-month treatment trial with topical treatment(s), either generic, OTC, or brand, within the last year or have a documented allergy or contraindication to all agents in this class.
- For Crohn's Disease or ulcerative colitis, the patient must have had an inadequate response to one or more conventional therapies, which include aminosalicylates, corticosteroids, azathioprine/6-mercaptopurine, metronidazole, ciprofloxacin, or cyclosporine.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Remicade®.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.
- For a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis, additional medical justification is required.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

Growth Failure Agents in Adults

Appropriate diagnosis

- The patient must have one of the following primary diagnoses listed below confirmed by a board certified endocrinologist or a board certified gastroenterologist for short bowel syndrome.
 - Childhood onset of growth hormone deficiency
 - Adult onset of growth hormone deficiency with other deficiencies
 - Adult onset of growth hormone deficiency without other pituitary hormone deficiencies
 - Short Bowel Syndrome
- Agents include Genotropin[®], Humatrope[®], Norditropin[®], Nutropin AQ[®], Nutropin[®], Saizen[®] and Zorbitive[®].
- Adult is defined for growth hormone replacement therapy as any patient with closed epiphyses.

Prior Treatment Trials

- Prior treatment trials do not apply to agents used for growth failure.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to agents used for growth failure.

Medical Justification

- Adults being considered for treatment with growth hormone must be screened prior to initiation of therapy to verify the absence of any malignant condition. If growth failure results from an intracranial tumor, absence of tumor growth or tumor recurrence must be documented for at least 6 months before initiating growth hormone therapy.
- Patients must be tested for normal thyroid function.
- Patients will be denied if they have any of the following contraindications.
 - Pregnancy
 - Proliferative or preproliferative diabetic neuropathy
 - Pseudotumor cerebri or benign intracranial HTN
- For growth hormone deficiency, provocative testing and IGF-1 levels as well as dates must be included. For adults with childhood onset growth hormone deficiency or with additional pituitary hormone deficits, one stimulation test is required. For those with suspected growth hormone deficiency with no other pituitary hormone deficits, 2 stimulation tests are required.
- As provocative testing, Insulin Tolerance Test is **required** unless contraindicated. ITT is contraindicated in patients with seizures, CAD, abnormal EKG with history of IHD or CVD and not advised for those > age 60. If ITT is contraindicated, documentation must be provided and an alternative test performed. Results from

other stimulation tests (arginine, glucagon, L-Dopa, growth hormone-releasing hormone [GHRH], and combinations of these agents, excluding clonidine), may be submitted for those patients with documented contraindication to ITT.

- For patients with short bowel syndrome, the patient must be receiving specialized nutritional support such as dietary adjustments, enteral feedings, parenteral nutrition, and/or fluid and micronutrient supplement.
- The strength, daily dose, patient's height and weight must be included with all requests.
- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- For growth hormone deficiency, approval may be given for up to 6 months. For subsequent requests, the physician must submit progress reports including information regarding efficacy, adverse effect and compliance, and the results of any required lab tests. The report must include the date the patient was last seen by the physician.
- For short bowel syndrome, approval may be granted for up to 4 weeks.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Growth failure agents are not included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- Verbal PA requests do not apply to agents used for growth failure.

Growth Failure Agents in AIDS Wasting

Appropriate diagnosis

- The patient must have a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS.
- Example agents include Serostim®.

Prior Treatment Trials

- Patient must be on antiretroviral therapy. The start date of the antiretroviral must be at least 120 days prior to the initiation of growth failure agent.
- Documentation of failed trial with appetite stimulants or weight gain agents (Periactin®, Marinol®, Megace®, Oxandrin®, or androgenic steroid) must be included.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to agents used for growth failure.

Medical Justification

- Adults being considered for treatment with growth hormone must be screened prior to initiation of therapy to verify the absence of any malignant condition. If growth failure results from an intracranial tumor, absence of tumor growth or tumor recurrence must be documented for at least 6 months before initiating growth hormone therapy.
- Patients will be denied if they have any of the following contraindications.
 - Pregnancy
 - Proliferative or preproliferative diabetic neuropathy
 - Pseudotumor cerebri or benign intracranial HTN
- For approval, documentation of unintentional weight loss of 10% over 12 months, 7.5% over 6 months, or loss of muscle mass ($BMI < 20\text{kg/m}^2$).
- Weight stabilization or weight gain must be reported to continue therapy.
- The duration of therapy, strength, daily dose, patient's height, weight, and BMI must be included with all requests.
- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 6 months. For subsequent requests, the physician must submit progress reports including information regarding efficacy, adverse effect and compliance, and the results of any required lab tests. The report must include the date the patient was last seen by the physician.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Growth failure agents are not included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- Verbal PA requests do not apply to agents used for growth failure.

Growth Failure Agents in Children

Appropriate diagnosis

- The patient must have one of the following primary diagnoses listed below.
 - Documented Growth Hormone Deficiency
 - Turner Syndrome
 - Growth Deficiency due to Chronic Renal Insufficiency (CRI)
 - Prader-Willi Syndrome
 - Severe Primary IGF-1 Deficiency (for mecasermin only)
 - Growth Hormone Gene Deletion (for mecasermin only)
- Example agents include Genotropin[®], Humatrope[®], Increlex[®], Iplex[®], Norditropin[®], Nutropin[®], Nutropin AQ[®], Omnitrope[®], Saizen[®], and Tev-tropin[®].
- The diagnosis must be confirmed by a board certified endocrinologist. For CRI, diagnosis may be confirmed by a board certified pediatric nephrologist.

Prior Treatment Trials

- Prior treatment trials do not apply to agents used for growth failure.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to agents used for growth failure.

Medical Justification

- Children being considered for treatment with growth hormone must be screened prior to initiation of therapy to verify the absence of any malignant condition. If growth failure results from an intracranial tumor, absence of tumor growth or tumor recurrence must be documented for at least 6 months before initiating growth hormone therapy.
- Patients will be denied if they have any of the following contraindications.
 - Pregnancy
 - Proliferative or preproliferative diabetic neuropathy (does not apply to mecasermin)
 - Pseudotumor cerebri or benign intracranial HTN (does not apply to mecasermin)
 - Closed epiphyses (after epiphyseal closure, use Adult Growth Failure Therapy criteria)
- For growth hormone (GH) deficiency, provocative testing (for children ≥ 12 months of age) and IGF-1 levels as well as dates must be included. Results from at least one (1) stimulation test (arginine, glucagon, L-Dopa, growth hormone-releasing hormone [GHRH], and combinations of these agents, excluding clonidine) are required. GH peak levels of ≤ 10 ng/ml after provocative testing support GH deficiency and justify treatment.
- Short stature in girls with Turner Syndrome is not due to GH deficiency, but growth failure due to intrinsic skeletal dysplasia. The decision to treat these

patients is not based on provocative testing but on the diagnosis of Turner Syndrome using karyotyping. For Turner Syndrome, the date and results of karyotyping must be included.

- The following diagnosis specific information is needed for approval of growth failure agents in children:
 - **Documented Growth Hormone Deficiency**
 - Diagnosis by Board Certified Endocrinologist
 - Normal thyroid function
 - Provocative testing
 - IGF-1 level
 - Height less than 5th percentile
 - Screening for intracranial malignancy and free from recurrence for at least 6 months
 - Free from following contraindications
 - Pregnancy
 - Proliferative or preproliferative diabetic neuropathy
 - Pseudotumor cerebri or benign intracranial HTN
 - Closed epiphyses (after epiphyseal closure, use Adult Growth Failure Therapy criteria)
 - **Turner Syndrome**
 - Diagnosis by Board Certified Endocrinologist
 - Normal thyroid function
 - Karyotyping with 45X (XO) date and results
 - Height less than 5th percentile
 - Screening for intracranial malignancy and free from recurrence for at least 6 months
 - Free from following contraindications
 - Pregnancy
 - Proliferative or preproliferative diabetic neuropathy
 - Pseudotumor cerebri or benign intracranial HTN
 - Closed epiphyses (after epiphyseal closure, use Adult Growth Failure Therapy criteria)
 - **Growth Deficiency due to Chronic Renal Insufficiency (CRI)**
 - Diagnosis by Board Certified Pediatric Nephrologist
 - Normal thyroid function
 - GFR and date
 - Height velocity or growth value in standard deviations below the means
 - Screening for intracranial malignancy and free from recurrence for at least 6 months
 - Free from following contraindications
 - Pregnancy
 - Proliferative or preproliferative diabetic neuropathy
 - Pseudotumor cerebri or benign intracranial HTN

- Closed epiphyses (after epiphyseal closure, use Adult Growth Failure Therapy criteria)

➤ **Prader-Willi Syndrome**

- Diagnosis by Board Certified Endocrinologist
- Normal thyroid function
- Height less than 5th percentile
- Screening for intracranial malignancy and free from recurrence for at least 6 months
- Free from following contraindications
 - Pregnancy
 - Proliferative or preproliferative diabetic neuropathy
 - Pseudotumor cerebri or benign intracranial HTN
 - Closed epiphyses (after epiphyseal closure, use Adult Growth Failure Therapy criteria)

➤ **Severe Primary IGF-1 Deficiency (for Increlex and Iplex only)**

- Diagnosis by Board Certified Endocrinologist
- Height value or growth velocity
- IGF-1 in standard deviations below the mean
- Growth hormone level
- Screening for intracranial malignancy and free from recurrence for at least 6 months
- Free from following contraindications
 - Pregnancy
 - Closed epiphyses (after epiphyseal closure, use Adult Growth Failure Therapy criteria)
- Age of at least 2 years but less than 18

➤ **Growth Hormone Gene Deletion (for Increlex and Iplex only)**

- Diagnosis by Board Certified Endocrinologist
- Screening for intracranial malignancy and free from recurrence for at least 6 months
- Free from following contraindications
 - Pregnancy
 - Closed epiphyses (after epiphyseal closure, use Adult Growth Failure Therapy criteria)
- Age of at least 2 years but less than 18

- The strength, daily dose, patient's height and weight must be included with all requests.
- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 6 months. For subsequent requests, the physician must submit progress reports including information regarding efficacy,

adverse effect and compliance, and the results of any required lab tests. The report must include the date the patient was last seen by the physician.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Growth failure agents are not included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- Verbal PA requests do not apply to agents used for growth failure.

H2 Antagonists

Appropriate Diagnosis

- Indicate in the clinical information section whether this request is for acute or maintenance therapy.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must also have failed 30-day treatment trials with two prescribed H2 Antagonists in this class, either generic, OTC or brand, within the past 6 months.
- Approval may be given without failed drug trials **if** a relevant diagnosis and documentation of testing with date and results are provided.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to the H2 antagonist class.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval timeframes are based on acute versus maintenance therapy. Approval may be given for up to 12 months for maintenance therapy.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

Appropriate Diagnosis

- For COX II Inhibitors, the patient must have an appropriate diagnosis supported by documentation in the patient record, as well as any additional diagnoses and any history preventing the use of other NSAIDs.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must have failed 30-day treatment trials with at least 2 other therapies, either generic, OTC, or brand, within the past 6 months.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have documented stable therapy on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.
- For **Prevacid NapraPac™** the patient must have a diagnosis of gastric ulcer, diagnosed within the past 12 months, **and** require the use of an NSAID for treatment of the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, or ankylosing spondylitis. The patient must also have failed two 30-day treatment trials with at least two prescribed NSAIDs while on concomitant H2 or PPI therapy within the past 6 months, either generic, OTC or brand, or have a documented contraindication to all preferred agents in this class.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- PA requests that meet prior usage requirement for approval may be accepted verbally.

Phosphodiesterase Inhibitors

Appropriate Diagnosis

- Phosphodiesterase inhibitors require diagnosis of pulmonary arterial hypertension (defined by a mean pulmonary arterial pressure >25 mm Hg at rest or >30 mm Hg with exercise, by a pulmonary capillary wedge pressure \leq 15 mm Hg and by peripheral vascular resistance > 3 mm Hg/L/min).
- Documentation must be provided of consultation with a specialist experienced in the treatment of pulmonary hypertension patients.
- A sole diagnosis of erectile dysfunction will not be approved.

Prior Treatment Trials

- Documentation must include failure of or contraindication to at least three other available oral conventional therapies.
- Previous therapies may include oral anticoagulants, calcium channel blocking agents, digoxin, diuretics and/or oxygen supplementation.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to phosphodiesterase inhibitors.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 30 days for initial requests, with up to 3 months allowed for renewal requests.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

Specialized Nutritionals

Appropriate Diagnosis

- Patients who, because of illness or trauma, cannot be sustained through oral feedings and must rely on enteral nutrition therapy may qualify for coverage under Medicaid. Enteral nutrition may be administered by nasogastric, jejunostomy, or gastrostomy tubes.
- Specialized nutrition is covered for Medicaid eligible EPSDT recipients less than 21 years of age with nutritional disorders. They do not have to be tube fed, but the specialized feeding must constitute more than 50% of their nutritional needs. A qualifying diagnosis is required.
- Recipients age 21 and over who must rely on enteral feedings as their only source of nutrition may qualify for Medicaid coverage if they have a qualifying diagnosis and meet disease specific criteria.

Prior Treatment Trials

- Prior treatment trials do not apply to nutritional products.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to nutritional products.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.
- Additional Information
 - Current height and weight are required.
 - Current age is required.
 - Route specialized nutritional is administered, along with the duration and number of refills is required.
- Prior authorization is for the nutritional product only and does not include any equipment or supplies necessary to administer the nutrients. Supplies and equipment used in conjunction with nutritional therapy may be covered in the Medical Supplies, Appliances and Durable Medical Equipment Program. For more information on supplies and equipment, see Chapter 14 of the Medicaid Provider Manual or contact Medicaid Provider/Recipient Services at 1-334-353-4753.

PA Timeframe Approval

- Approval may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

Sustained Release (SR) Oral Opioid Agonists

Appropriate Diagnosis

- Approval may be given for the treatment of intractable, chronic pain with oral SR opioid agonists (OxyContin[®], Kadian[®], Oramorph SR[®], Opana ER[®], MS Contin[®], Avinza[™]). These medications are narcotic analgesics and Schedule II controlled substances and are not intended for use with acute pain, as a PRN analgesic, or for short-term pain management (≤ 10 days).
- The request form must include duration of therapy, if medication is for PRN use, type of pain, and severity of pain.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must have failed 30-day trials with alternative pain management therapies and non-opioid adjuvant drugs to replace or enhance opioid analgesia, unless the primary diagnosis is an approved cancer diagnosis.

Stable Therapy

- Approval may be given for children age 18 years and under who have been stable on the requested medication for 60 consecutive days or greater who meet the diagnosis requirements.

Medical Justification

- For patients ≥ 65 years of age, medical justification may be provided in lieu of non-opioid adjuvant drugs.
- If the patient has a history of substance abuse or addiction, a treatment plan (a plan of action addressing continuing medical monitoring, titration, and a written signed contract for therapy) must be attached to the request, unless the patient is a nursing home resident.
- For nursing home residents with a history of substance abuse or addiction, medical justification may be submitted in lieu of a plan of action, alternate pain management choices and adjuvant therapy.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval timeframes are diagnosis dependent and may be given for up to 12 months.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Sustained release (SR) oral opioid agonists are included in the electronic PA program.

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

Synagis®

Appropriate Diagnosis

- Synagis® has been approved by Alabama Medicaid for the prevention of serious lower respiratory tract disease caused by respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in pediatric patients at high risk for RSV disease.

Prior Treatment Trials

- Prior treatment trials do not apply to Synagis®.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Synagis®.

Medical Justification

- The patient must meet the gestational age, chronological age, and must be an outpatient with no in-patient stay for at least two weeks prior to the date of the medication request. In order to meet chronological age requirements, the recipient must be the required age at the start of the RSV season.
- Infants less than six (6) months old with gestational age of 33-35 weeks may qualify with 2 or more of the AAP risk factors (child care attendance, school-age siblings, congenital abnormalities, severe neuromuscular disease, and exposure to environmental air pollutants).
- Environmental air pollutants do not include second-hand smoke. Environmental air pollutants would include instances where a child is **constantly** exposed to particulate air matter and should be described in detail in the Drug/Clinical information section of the PA form.
- Additional medical justification for high-risk toddlers less than twenty four (24) months of age may be given for hemodynamically significant CHD (congenital heart disease), CLD (chronic lung disease of prematurity), or congenital abnormalities of the airways with documentation provided as defined.
 - For CLD, documentation must support gestational age less than or equal to 35 weeks with parenchymal disease resulting from oxygen or ventilator support and ongoing medical intervention throughout the RSV season consisting of supplemental O2, bronchodilators, oral steroids, inhaled steroids, or diuretics.
 - For hemodynamically significant CHD, the patient must be less than 24 months of age and documentation must show ongoing treatment consisting of home use of supplemental daily oxygen, diuretics, or other medications to control congestive heart failure, moderate to severe pulmonary artery

hypertension or cyanotic congenital heart disease, and no surgical correction of cardiac defect.

- Patients who have received prior authorization should receive monthly doses (up to 5 doses) throughout the RSV season as defined by the Alabama Medicaid Agency. RSV prophylaxis approval will terminate after March 31.
- Additional Information:
 - Current weight is required.
 - In addition to the above, the patient must also be an outpatient with no inpatient stay within the past 2 weeks.
- Check appropriate category for age, condition, and risk factors.
- If a dose was administered in the inpatient setting, the date the dose was administered must be included on the request form.
- Approval authorizes only one (1) dose (based on patient weight) every twenty-eight days up to a five (5) dose maximum or through March 31. The season will begin no earlier than October 1. No request for more than five (5) doses will be approved. No dose may be given after March 31, and requests for more than one dose in a twenty-eight day period cannot be approved. Requests for Synagis will be accepted from providers beginning September 1.
- Medical documentation acceptable for Synagis[®] prior authorization must include all medications, frequency of medication dosing, and diagnosis(es) with indications of severity of illness. A periodic review of medical records will be conducted by the Alabama Medicaid Agency or designees.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 5 months or through the end of RSV season (March 31), whichever comes first.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

Xenical®

Appropriate Diagnosis

- To receive prior authorization for Xenical®, the patient must be 18 years of age or older and have at least one of the following primary medical diagnoses:
 - Diabetes mellitus
 - Hypertension
 - Hyperlipidemia
- For initial requests the patient's height (in inches), weight (in pounds) and BMI are required.
- Renewal requests require the patient's previous and current weights (in pounds). Continued weight loss must be documented for renewals.
- Dosage requested must not exceed 120 mg TID.

Prior Treatment Trials

- There must be documentation in the patient record to support failure with prior physician supervised exercise/diet regimen(s) of at least 6 months duration. Documentation must also show that adjuvant therapy is planned.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Xenical®.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 3 months with initial request, and up to 6 months for each subsequent request to a total approval period not to exceed 2 years for the recipient.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

Xolair®

Appropriate Diagnosis

- Prior authorization for treatment with Xolair requires that the patient's course of treatment be recommended by a board certified pulmonologist or a board certified allergist.
- The patient must be 12 years of age or older.
- The patient must have had a positive skin or blood test reaction to a perennial aeroallergen.
- Appropriate IgE to mass ratios must be followed, with the baseline IgE levels between 30 IU/ml and 700 IU/ml.
- The patient must weigh between 30kg and 150kg.

Prior Treatment Trials

- The patient must be symptomatic despite receiving a combination of either inhaled corticosteroid and leukotriene inhibitor or an inhaled corticosteroid and a long acting beta agonist or the patient must have required 3 or more bursts of oral steroids within the past 12 months.

Stable Therapy

- Stable therapy does not apply to Xolair®.

Medical Justification

- Medical justification may include peer-reviewed literature, medical record documentation, or other information specifically requested.

PA Approval Timeframes

- Approval may be given for up to 6 months for initial request and up to 12 months for renewal requests.

Electronic Prior Authorization (PA)

- Not Applicable

Verbal PA Requests

- Not Applicable

Section Six
PA Form: Dispensing Pharmacy Information

(Information in this area may be completed by the pharmacy).

Below are fields to be completed on the PA Form.

Form States:	Your Response:
Dispensing pharmacy	Enter the pharmacy name.
NPI/Provider number	Enter the pharmacy NPI or provider number.
Phone number with area code	Enter the pharmacy phone number with area code.
Fax number with area code	Enter the pharmacy fax number with area code.
NDC number	Record the NDC number of the drug requested.

Section Seven

PA Form: Exempt Medications

Currently only the following classes are exempt from the mandatory preferred drug list:

Antipsychotics

Antiretrovirals (HIV/AIDS drugs)